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THE SENATE CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON  
STATE OF NEW YORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ELIZABETH O'C. LITTLE  
SENATOR. 45TH DISTRICT

September 22, 2003

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
PO Box 50221  
Washington, DC 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the New York State Senate representative for the 45th Senate District, I am writing to express my support for the US Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau proposed rulemaking for flavored malt beverages. (2001R-136P)

The TTB 's action is an important clarification of federal alcohol beverage categories established to maintain an orderly US Marketplace. The debate surrounding the proposed standard poses important issues of stability of the retail licensing system and the overall marketplace.

This standard is the most effective means to address recent concerns by both federal and state officials. If adopted, the standard will maintain an orderly marketplace, meet consumer expectations for consistent products, and help sustain the long-term development of the product category. In addition, these reformulated products will be consistent with state tax, license, and distribution laws allowing wholesalers and retailers to continue to distribute, sell and market flavored malt beverages as they do today.

Absent a national standard rooted in existing law and regulation, manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers will face a potential for a patchwork of individual state laws and regulations where the same product may ultimately be sold as "beer" in one state and a "distilled spirits" in another.

Thank you for your consideration and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth O'C. Little .  
Senator

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